

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANIMAL REFUGE LEAGUE IN PORTLAND, MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, in 1911, the Animal Refuge League in Portland, Maine was incorporated and in 1956, former Maine Governor Percival Baxter helped fund and establish the League's new location on Stroudwater Street in Westbrook, Maine. Each year, the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (ARLGP) rescues and places more than 4,000 dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, gerbils and other animals all around Maine each year. The dedicated staff and volunteers nurture wounded, neglected and abandoned animals so they can be placed in loving homes. The organization has an impressive 92 percent placement rate for cats and dogs, which is among the highest in the country.

This year, the Animal Refuge League marks its one hundredth anniversary. In addition to fulfilling its original mission to provide temporary care and permanent shelter for stray, abandoned and relinquished animals, the ARLGP is also developing innovative programs to meet the needs of Maine communities in new ways.

Through Paws in Stripes, the ARLGP maintains a working relationship with Maine Correctional Center in Windham whereby the prisoners play a major role in the socialization of select puppies from the shelter. A new Seniors to Seniors program matches senior citizens with senior cats, and the ongoing foster program works with families to provide temporary homes to animals who need time, rest, recuperation, medical care or socialization before they are ready for adoption. Humane Education is a program that teaches children of all ages respect for all living things.

As someone who spent years working as an organic farmer, I have a deep appreciation for the many roles that animals play in all our lives. Today, I am happy to celebrate the ARLGP's one hundred years of successful work rescuing animals. Congratulations, and thank you for the work that you do.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Andrew Bosch for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts

such as honor, duty, country and charity. For his Eagle Scout Project Andrew provided plant and tree identification markers for a local Historic Park. By applying these concepts to daily life, Andrew has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Zachary Peter Stephens for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. For his Eagle Scout Project Zachary completed a restoration project of a garden area called the Harbor House. By applying these concepts to daily life, Zachary has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ADMIRAL MICHAEL G. MULLEN'S 43 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Admiral Michael G. Mullen, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral "Mike" Mullen will retire as the highest-ranking officer in the United States Armed Forces and the President's principle military advisor. His service spans more than four decades of active military duty to the United States Navy and the Department of Defense.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Admiral Mike Mullen was commissioned into the Navy after graduating with the Class of 1986, from the United States Naval Academy. His rise in the Navy began at sea, when Ensign Mullen reported aboard the destroyer, USS *Collett*, as an Anti-Submarine Officer. While aboard the ship, he deployed to the Western Pacific and participated in combat operations off the coast of Vietnam. Afterwards, he subsequently served on six other warships, including com-

mand of three of those vessels at sea, and he commanded the George Washington Carrier Strike Group and United States Second Fleet. His shore assignments have been focused in the areas of resourcing and personnel which included duty with the Bureau of Personnel, the Navy staff, and the staff of the Secretary of Defense. He helped train, educate, and mentor future generations of naval officers during tours at the United States Naval Academy. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exemplary service in duty to the mission and care for his sailors.

In August 2003, Admiral Mike Mullen was selected to serve as the Navy's 32nd Vice Chief of Naval Operations. During the first half of 2005, he served as Commander of NATO's Joint Force Command Naples and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, leading the Alliance's peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and its important training mission in Iraq.

In July of 2005, Admiral Mike Mullen was sworn in as the 28th Chief of Naval Operations, serving as the top uniformed leader of the Navy and representative to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his tenure, he oversaw the service's efforts to man, train, and equip the United States Navy to fulfill its traditional missions at sea. Admiral Mike Mullen also conceived and championed the Navy's contributions to the ground war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan and other regions to combat violent terrorism. Admiral Mike Mullen further led efforts to provide a framework and concrete plan to stabilize the Navy's shipbuilding program to support a three hundred-thirteen ship fleet to maintain the United States' maritime superiority in a dynamic and uncertain world.

On October 1st, 2007, the President of the United States and the United States Senate appointed Admiral Mike Mullen as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Since assuming duties as Chairman, he has overseen continuous joint military operations with our Nation's allies to eradicate terrorist networks throughout the world. Admiral Mike Mullen's overall leadership supported the incredible turnaround in security and stability in Iraq and has bolstered the efforts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance in Afghanistan. Additionally during his tenure, Admiral Mike Mullen oversaw military humanitarian assistance operations in relief of major international disasters to include the 2010 Haiti Earthquake and 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Although Admiral Mike Mullen's dedication to service has been honored by a wide array of leadership awards and decorations over the years, this consummate military professional's commitment to his Nation is driven by much more profound reasons. My wife Beverly and I have seen personally that he is a man who cares deeply for our men and women in uniform, their families, and the families of the fallen and missing. Admiral Mike Mullen, along with his wife Deborah, have passionately represented our men and women in uniform, particularly those who have returned from this

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

decade's wars as they and their families heal from wounds both seen and unseen. His attention to our most critically wounded has been a testament to his willingness to ensure our wounded Service Members and their families receive the best care and support the Nation has to offer. I have no doubt his commitment to these Americans, who have given so much, will indeed endure far beyond his days in uniform.

The United States Navy, the Department of Defense and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders as Admiral Mike Mullen leaves active duty and this Congressman and my wife Beverly will deeply miss his counsel on many important issues and most important his personal friendship. We will miss his humility, his selflessness, his candor and his integrity. When history looks back at this leader and his legacy it will be clear that his leadership produced the best military the world has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Admiral Mike Mullen over the last several years of his long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Admiral Mike Mullen for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Deborah, and his two sons, John and Michael, all the best in his retirement.

JUSTICE FOR IRANIAN PEOPLE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, thousands of Iranian-Americans from 41 states across America attended a rally outside the Department of State on August 26, 2011, calling on the Secretary to remove the principal Iranian opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO).

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which acts as Iran's Parliament-in-exile, addressed the rally via satellite from Paris. Excerpts of her remarks follow:

Honorable and brave Iranians, I salute your protest and gathering, which symbolizes an uprising for the freedom of the Iranian people and in defense of the persecuted and besieged Ashraf; an uprising against a discredited label against the Iranian Resistance. Today, your calls echo the calls for justice emanating from an enchained nation, which rejects the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule) dictatorship. Ashraf is proud to have such admirable representatives and defenders like you; And the Iranian people are proud to have stored in your being the most prized possession required for the attainment of freedom and democracy.

Dear Compatriots, It has been more a year since the ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, which ordered the State Department to review the terrorist listing of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). The Iranian people and the Iranian Resistance have paid the price for this unjustified delay with the blood of their

most courageous children. Political prisoners in Iran, like Ali Saremi, were hanged by Khamenei's henchmen. And, the 36 heroes of freedom in Ashraf, who were martyred on the orders of the velayat-e faqih regime, were all part of this bloody price. The terror listing in the U.S. is openly used as a justification to legitimize such bloodletting, both by the cruel mullahs in Tehran as well as their proxy government in Iraq. Therefore, the Iranian people are asking the United States, "Why are you not annulling the license to kill our children?"

The decision of the appeals court in Washington stated that the State Department violated due process rights during the listing process. And, 20 judgments by European courts against the terrorism charge leave absolutely no doubt that this label is completely discredited. Thousands of parliamentarians and human rights advocates in the Arab world and in Europe, joined by a large number of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, forming a great global voice in defense of the freedom-loving Iranian Resistance. This constitutes an exceptional consensus in the face of 14 years of injustices committed against the PMOI and the Iranian Resistance. Dozens of the most honorable former senior officials serving in the country's administrations over the last two decades have taken a clear stance in the course of their multiple international conferences in Washington, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, London and Rome, leaving absolutely no credibility for this listing. Hail to their sense of justice and clear-sightedness through which the great historical symbols of America like Jefferson and Lincoln are resurrected.

We have seen how the mullahs' regime and the insignificant factions directed by Tehran utilize cruelty and insolence to attack and avenge these dignified personalities. But, these officials have shown extraordinary courage by placing their credibility and political reputation in support of this Resistance. We recognize the United States in the image of these noble human beings and not those who have succumbed to religious fascism. They represent an America that recognizes democracy and human rights in Iran as the precondition for global peace and security and guarantor of the American people's genuine interests. This is the United States that is standing by the Iranian people. For the past 170 days, your courageous and resilient friends have staged a sit-in across from the State Department. They echo the Iranian nation's call for the upholding of justice for the protection of Ashraf and removal of the PMOI from the terror list night and day, both under the summer heat and the winter chill.

Letters from more than 800 religious leaders and 2,000 priests across the U.S. in support of this Resistance. Thirteen hearing sessions in the U.S. House and Senate to pursue the issue of protecting Ashraf and annulling the discredited terror label against the PMOI. Passing of multiple resolutions in Congress, and especially the amendment passed by the House Foreign Affairs Committee last month about the imperative to prevent the displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq. And thousands of political, parliamentary, media and social initiatives, all of which have inspired the admiration of everyone. The evil forces that have laid a siege on your sisters and brothers in Camp Ashraf seek to destroy and annihilate Ashraf and its freedom-seeking residents. But, you have spread the flames of Ashraf in your society and hoisted its flag. Hold onto this flag more powerfully, because this is the banner of freedom and democracy in Iran.

Clearly, the U.S. bears special responsibility for ensuring the protection of these residents on the basis of its agreements with every single one of the residents in Camp Ashraf. We urge the U.S. to listen to Congress and the resolution passed by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and abandon the idea of displacing Ashraf residents within Iraq. We call on the U.S. to support the European solution instead of this dangerous idea which will have no results other than a humanitarian catastrophe. Similarly, we want the United Nations to rise up to its irrevocable obligations in ensuring the protection of Ashraf. . .

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HOLIDAY ISLES ELKS LODGE 1912 IN MADEIRA BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding group of individuals that I have the privilege to represent in Madeira Beach, Florida, which has dedicated years of generous care and hospitality for our Nation's veterans. Over the years, in cooperation with the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital, the Holiday Isles Elks Lodge 1912 has proved that their commitment to our troops is unwavering.

Every day, members of Lodge 1912 can be found at the local Bay Pines Veterans Hospital demonstrating their commitment to those who have already sacrificed so much. For example, member Betty Ryan takes the initiative on a regular basis to find out what exactly it is our hospitalized veterans need. And within the lodge, Betty has set up a box for donations which she routinely presents to veterans at Bay Pines.

The Elks community also offers and supports many individual programs designed to help and enhance the lives of our veterans. One of these supported programs is the Wounded Warrior Project which, in 2009, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission made available \$50,000 to launch the Elks/Wounded Warrior Project. Just as the Wounded Warrior Project assists injured veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Elks offers a program known as the Army of Hope which assists the families of those who have been called to duty during these very difficult times of conflict.

These constituents of mine provide an outstanding service to our veterans; however, this commitment does not end with Lodge 1912. There are 2000 lodges nationwide and you will find their members hard at work in each of the 172 VA Medical centers around the country living up to their pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Mr. Speaker, Holiday Isles Elks Lodge 1912 not only shines in their display of compassion and patriotism, but also reminds us of the characteristics of great people that make up a great nation. Thank you to all the members for their excellent service in the past and for your continued assistance to the community and our veterans in the future.